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In This Issue

COUNCIL JOTTINGS
by Charles Dodd

SOCCER COACHING
by Len Young

★

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 28, 1954

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● Der "ARGUS" ist wieder einmal die erste Zeitung in Australien, die dem hiesigen Soccer-Sport etwas einzigartiges bietet. Die Plakette fuer den besten und fairsten Soccer-Spieler, der Spielzeit 1954. Diese Auszeichnung wird in der selben Art verliehen als die "Brownlow" Plakette der Victorian Fussball Vereinigung. Lesen Sie daher den "ARGUS" aufmerksam und verfolgen Sie den Fortschritt Ihres Lieblingsfussballer.

● Jeden Montag bringen wir Ihnen einen vollen Soccerbericht und die letzten Stimmenergebnisse im "fairsten und besten Fussballspieler" Wettbewerb.

CHIAMIAMO I TIFOSI DEL CALCIO!

● Qui c'è un'altra "Prima" dell'Argus—la Medaglia Argus per il migliore e più corretto giocatore di calcio del 1954. Conferita in modo uguale alla V.F.L. Brownlow Medal, la Medaglia Argus sarà la prima del suo genere nella storia locale del calcio.

● Leggete la classifica dei giocatori del vostro club nell'Argus. I voti appariranno ogni Lunedì.

SOCCER NEWS

The Official Organ of the
VICTORIAN AMATEUR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Vol. 7, No. 22. SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1954

EDITORIAL

All communications re Soccer News must reach The Editor, V. J. M. Dixon, 2 Cowper Street, Sandringham, S.8, by first post on Friday.

Australia's defeat by New Zealand in the Melbourne Test Match has thrown the Australian selectors into a pretty flutter and as was to be expected, N.S.W. has been called on to save the situation, and this, despite the Kiwi's crushing 4-1 defeat of the "Harbourites".

Here they are again, the same old brigade, not a new face among them, while out go W.A., South Australia, and but for Tommy Jack, Victoria also.

Today's team for the Brisbane Test contains no less than seven New South Welshmen, three Queenslanders and one Victorian. Back we go to the good old days when N.S.W. played as Australia and the other States could sit and hope that they might sneak an odd player in if they were good boys.

Completely lost sight of is the fact that N.S.W. has not defeated Victoria for many years — in the last three years Victoria has beaten them once 5-2, and played a draw with them this year. W.A. were only defeated by the only goal of the match when they met N.S.W. this year, but that does not mean a thing to the big-hearted boys up north. On the selectors' valuation N.S.W. is seven times better than W.A., while Qld., who were defeated by W.A. this year, on the same valuation, are three times better than W.A. for N.S.W. has seven players in the side, Qld. three, and W.A. none.

Personally I would not mind if all the Australian team came from one State — if performances justified such a step — but only too obviously they do not, and unfortunately it is always the same State that selectors run to for salvation, and that State is not W.A., Queensland, S.A., Tasmania or Victoria. The trouble lies in the method of selection, and all the Inter-[illegible] Carnivals in the world won't do justice to the States until a better [illegible]thod of choosing the National team is formed.

Present set-up is for the team to be picked in Sydney, where the two N.S.W. selectors can meet together with the Chairman and Secretary of the Australian Association, who are also New South Welshmen. Whereas on many occasions only one selector from other States has been present. If other State selectors were not present during such meetings the Chairman has rung selectors in the other States and tells them what the meeting thinks and what "So-and-and-So" in S.A. or W.A. or Victoria said when he rang him(supposing he rang "So-and-So" first). The poor

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unfortunate selector on the other end of the line had a sad show of making any impression on the solid nucleus at the Sydney end and frankly might as well stay in bed. However, such a set-up did not apply when the present team was chosen for all selectors were present. We can, therefore, only criticise the spineless attitude of selectors from other States who weakly acquiesced in the presence of so many New South Welshmen. That this does not apply to our Victorian selector, V.A.S.F.A. Chairman Bill Thomas, who has vigorously fought for the inclusion of players not only from Victoria but from other States on numerous occasions, we are well aware. Readers must therefore judge for themselves with which State the trouble lies.

As we stated last week when an International tour is on in Australia, the team should be chosen in good time and the players brought together for coaching and training together under an Australian coach. Until that is done we shall never produce a strong National side.

It is now six years since the Yugoslav team toured Australia. The team won every game bar two, and one they didn't win was a 3-3 draw versus Victoria.

This year Victoria beat the New Zealanders, but does that mean a thing up North. Not on your life, yet only too obviously Victoria and other States have the players to draw from. How much longer is this ridiculous situation to continue?

With only two fixtures left to play (including today's games) the First Division championship is now the property of Juventus, who knocked a few spots off Brighton's record last week at Elsternwick, and sent the "seasiders" down to fifth position. Hakoah, with two hard games versus J.U.S.T. and Polonia, to play, still look safe for the one point they require to ensure second position.

Box Hill, at the other end, have still a chance — but a very slender one — on saving themselves from relegation. A win or a draw today against Brighton might give them the morale to defeat Prahran next week, though should Prahran beat South Yarra today, they will be safe. South Yarra who are past redemption now, scored one of their few wins against Prahran earlier this season.

In Second Division both George Cross and Yallourn are certain to go up for Sunshine City lost their last chance when South Melbourne defeated them last week. Sunshine United must go down to Third Division, and White Eagles look like accompanying them. Slavia and Flinders Naval Depot must now go up to Second Division, and Fairfield must go down with Coburg, also sliding with them.

Maribyrnong and Wilhelmina will take their places in Third Division.

Things in the minor divisions are far from being what they should be with some clubs and last week the disgraceful situation arose of not one reserve game being played.

No doubt the League Management Committee will be looking at this matter very seriously, and a few headaches are likely to be handed out.

The Australian team for the Second Test v. New Zealand in Brisbane today: (1) Lord (N.S.W.); (2) Jack (Vic.) vice-capt.; (3) O'Neill (N.S.W.) capt.; (4) Bignell (N.S.W.); (5) Hearne (N.S.W.); (6) Sander (Qld.); (7) Stewart (N.S.W.); (8) Lennard (N.S.W.); (9) Nunn (Qld.); (10) Wild (Qld.); (11) Robertson (N.S.W.).

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COUNCIL JOTTINGS

By CHARLES DODD

It was brought to the notice of Council by Dr. C. Walker that a statement derogatory to officials of the Association had been made by Mr. Alec Barr during his broadcast on August 20 in that he stated that a certain player had been suspended for life for a trivial offence.

Mr. W. R. Thomas Chairman of Council, spoke very strongly against such statements being made during the official broadcasts of the Association.

FINANCE

Mr. Rothfield proposed that a special Finance Sub-Committee should be formed to consider, before it was incurred, every item of expense. Due to the lack this year of the usual income from Olympic Park the Association will inevitably show a serious deficit at the end of this season, and it is the duty of Council to consider with the utmost care its stewardship of the funds available.

A Finance Committee consisting of Mr. W. R. Thomas, Mr. A. Kerr and Mr. H. C. Dodd was elected.

SUNSHINE CITY DEPUTATION

A deputation from Sunshine City Club consisting of Vice-President Foster, Secretary Higgins, and Messrs. White, Short and Johnston, was received to consider their application for a loan or grant to assist them in obtaining a soccer ground at Watkin's Park, Sunshine.

Mr. Higgins explained that the land was available to them and that they had the goodwill of their City Council.

All they required was the assistance of this Council to give them the opportunity of approaching their City Council with finance and a concrete plan. A Supporters' Club was already operating to raise funds towards their project.

The ground would be wholly and solely for use as a soccer ground. It is 381 feet wide and 700 ft. long and fencing would not be objected to by the City Fathers. A figure of £500 was suggested as a suitable sum with which to approach the City Council and with this amount Mr. Higgins felt real progress could be made.

The ground lies seven miles from Melbourne and could be used, perhaps, to some advantage during the Olympic Games.

The Sunshine City Soccer Club funds amounted to only about £20. They were only a Second Division Club but were making every effort for the promotion of the game.

A rental of five guineas was suggested by the Sunshine Council for the first year and a tenancy of five years was available providing the money was provided for improvements.

Mr. Johnson, Chairman of the Sunshine City Supporters' Club, stated that he and his members were doing everything in their power to raise funds

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

POLONIA v. HAKOAH

to build and equip a fine pavilion with the object of making the Sunshine City Club the best in Victoria.

The ground could be made playable for a sum of approximately £60 and a suitable dressing shed could be built with the volunteer labour available for about £350.

First requirement, however was the approval of a grant of some £500 with which to approach the City Council.

The population of the area was already preponderantly English and many more homes were being built for English migrants who were all potential supporters.

After due discussion a motion was passed that the Council recommend to the Trustees that a loan of £500 be granted to the Sunshine City Club for ground improvements to be repayable in three years with the option of renewal for a further three years, providing satisfactory agreement is reached with the Sunshine City Council and the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association regarding plans and arrangements.

NIGHT SOCCER

Mr. Beaton reported that the sub-committee recommended that eight teams in two sections of four would take part in the night soccer games.

The competition would be played two nights per week and would last five or six weeks.

Suggested evenings were Wednesday and Friday and selected teams would play under district names, J.U.S.T. as Richmond, Juventus as Carlton, Hakoah as St. Kilda, South Melbourne as Port Melbourne, Moreland as Coburg, Prahran as Prahran, Brighton as Brighton, and Polonia as Collingwood.

RECOMMENDED FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

Each evening four clubs would compete and receive 10 per cent. each of the nett takings, 10 per cent. would go to a players' accident fund, and 50 per cent. to the Association funds.

Clubs would not be restricted to playing only their own registered players during this competition, but would be empowered to invite any available Victorian player to represent them.

Council decided after discussion that the game be played on one night only per week, and the sub-committee was requested to arrange accordingly.

Night games will probably commence in January. The venue and further details are still under discussion.

THE "SUN" CUP

A letter from Mr. Murray Masterson, of the "Sun", was received with much pleasure, informing the Council that The "Sun" wished to give a Cup to be competed for annually by the teams playing in the night soccer competition.

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Great Players from "Concerning Soccer"

TOMMY LAWTON

By JOHN ARLOTT

Saturday, January 26, 1952, was a cold, grim day in London. Arsenal and Chelsea were both playing interesting fixtures at home, but old memories drew me to Shepherd's Bush where, on a frost-bound pitch covered by a thin layer of snow, Queen's Park Rangers were playing Notts County. It was not, by normal standards, an attractive match. The local team was having a bad spell, as clubs unable to pay large transfer fees are always likely to have while they are waiting for their young players to develop.

At centre-forward for Notts County, however, was Tommy Lawton — formerly of Burnley, Everton and Chelsea — now some three seasons past his day as England's centre-forward, but, with England still strikingly failing to find his successor, still a nostalgically regretted figure of the game, and the hub of some great footballing memories. Genius, in any field, is always rewarding to watch and, of the thousands of good, and scores of outstanding footballers that the last twenty years of the game have shown us, a bare dozen may be said to have had utter genius for the game and to fit the adjective "great". Lawton is one of those few, or had been when I saw him last. That game, I recalled on my way to that match, had been an international, his last.

Should I, I wondered, even at the last minute, turn away, go to another match, even to a theatre? Should I be disappointed: was it fair to smear the memory of greatness by watching the same man being less than himself? I have a faith in genius: I went in.

Lawton was not, it seemed, disposed to break his neck on the hard surface. Some less-than-accurate passes came somewhere near him but he barely noticed them. He was never one to tear his heart out in chasing kicks he could not catch, and I have sometimes suspected that he regarded some of the football played around him with impatience. Football was, I am sure, such a natural process with him that he was irritated by the errors of others: it was, perhaps, that he could not conceive of a footballer being unable to think the right thing or unable technically to perform it.

There is, I reflected, a time in the 'thirties when the body, to protect its bones as they become more brittle, rebels against the attempts of the brain to drive it into danger. A shot fired at the Queen's Park Rangers' goal cannoned out: Lawton was waiting for it, as precisely placed as if he had been told in advance what was to happen; almost lazily, and with utter certainty, he placed it firmly into the net and turned away unmoved.

There was, perhaps, no need to be the great Lawton? On such a surface, was it, for him, necessary only to wait for the mistakes which would give him goals? There were, indeed, some touches of the great Lawton one remembered. He was being marked by Spence, formerly a good Portsmouth reserve to those two fine centre-halves, Flewin and Froggatt. Spence is a young player, fit, well made, tall, strong in the tackle, with height in the climb, a reliable header of the ball and, in general, a calm and sound defender. Several times Spence, covering Lawton closely, went up for a ball and, Lawton, when he challenged, would let Spence begin his leap and then, starting later, go higher and win the duel, to tap the ball smartly from that smoothly greased head to the feet of a colleague. He strolled on those

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SOUTH YARRA

heavily muscled legs into the right positions and, once there, performed deftly and with ridiculous ease the movements necessary to turn or assist the ball to the point where a fellow forward might most effectively use it.

The second half began. Two or three good balls from Lawton's head created opportunities which were not used. There was a brilliant run by Frank Broome — who seems to lose little of his legendary speed with years — which suddenly lit up the afternoon. It may also have put Lawton on his mettle. Crookes, his outside-left, made ground down the wing, moved inside and pushed the ball hard and square towards Lawton just outside the Ranger's penalty area. Lawton swung his body as if to move across to the right with the ball. The opposing defenders, to a man, moved the same way and, suddenly, while they were still moving, like some diagram of counter-stresses come to life, Lawton was moving in the opposite direction. Seeming to dig his feet into that false surface like a man climbing up shale, he had taken the ball and, his previous move no more than a feint, he was going to the left. He went round the end man of the group — a half-back who was striving desperately to stop going the wrong way — and hammered the ball with his left foot, waist-high and wide of the goalkeeper, to produce a flying save good enough to cause one to wonder which of the applause was for Lawton and which for the goalkeeper.

Only five minutes later, a long low ball down the middle found Lawton with Spence, the right-half and right-back all within ten feet of him and between him and the goal. There was no stud-hold on the icy ground. Lawton took the ball and, half-trudging, half-strolling, he walked round each of the defenders, one after the other: not one of them managed to touch him or the ball. Pushing it round the third of them, he half-looked at the goal and lazily swung his right leg. The ball went straight into the far corner of the net, hard against the iron support no more than a foot from the ground. Lawton turned round without excitement and walked back to the centre.

Towards the end of the game, a free kick to Notts County on its left wing and just inside their opponent's half was taken by the left-half. He lifted it high into a goal-mouth packed with players. Lawton went up and, with that fantastic power he always seemed to have of being able to hover at the peak of his climb, appeared to assess the situation below him and, hitting the ball smartly with his forehead, directed it accurately to the feet of Crookes, who had only to kick it into the net from two-yards' range.

On possibly ten occasions during that match — which Notts County won by 3-1 — Lawton, without appearing to exert himself, played in such a way as no other centre-forward in England, indeed, in Britain or, for all I know, in the world, could have excelled: let us be accurate, not one of them could have equalled it.

✣ ✣ ✣

IN COMPARISON with the Australian League games, we have a small force of police in attendance at our Sunday International games.

Not as stated in the "Herald" a few days ago when a player was fined for striking a referee.

✣ ✣ ✣

LEN YOUNG was presented with a cigarette lighter and case by the boys doing the coaches course. First time I've seen Len stuck for words.

✣ ✣ ✣

TRY watching a few minor games, Rex. Might bring you up to date on soccer here.

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HOME and AWAY

By REX BENSON

IT HAD TO HAPPEN

So it took about 20 matches before one referee decided that the Juventus coach had no right to be standing on the touchline giving instructions. Let it be said that at no time has Mr. Szalay ever been known to shout a single word to the players during the game, but of course his actions meant a lot. I am not taking sides in the matter: there must be a regulation saying that it is right or wrong, but I must add that if Mr. Gatt's action in ensuring, with the aid of the police, that Mr. Szalay refrained from coaching on the side-lines was correct, why has it not been done before? Surely V.A.S.F.A. Council members, and executive members at that, have seen it at every Juventus game. If they thought it wrong, they should have said so, and not waited for a referee to "carry the can" and incur unpopularity among the crowd.

LET'S GET THINGS RIGHT

South Yarra are hardly likely to be pleased at being tagged, during one broadcast, with the unenviable record of scoring the least number of points on record in the First Division. Perhaps it literally meant "points", and that Sunshine City, three years ago, who failed to score even one point, missed that distinction. For the benefit of those who follow the fortunes of Australian clubs, here is the composition of the First Division only three years ago. Yallourn were champions, with Sunshine United runners-up. Then followed Brighton, Prahran, Box Hill, South Yarra, Park Rangers, and Footscray City, with the two bottom clubs, Sandringham City (who missed out by a point and were later deserted by their "stars") and Sunshine City, who, as I stated earlier, were pointless. Makes interesting reading, especially when one starts to conjecture who will be there in another three years.

Now at least South Yarra will agree that they are going down, but the Box Hill men were very surprised to hear themselves included in the "Burial Service" on Saturday night. The wreath should not yet be sent as given the same points total as Prahran, goal average will save them.

STERN MEASURES

Mr. Arthur Ellis, the referee, did not worry about reputations in the Hungary-Brazil clash in the World Cup series. As the favourites for the title were involved, "clash" it turned out to be. Two Brazilians, Santos and Umberto, were sent off, and one Hungarian, Bozsik. Two other players had their names taken.

OFFENDING STUDS

Everybody will agree with the remarks passed in last week's "Soccer News" that studs should be examined before the game — but not by the referee. It is the responsibility of the player, and he runs the risk of being sent off during the game to rectify them if they are not in order. As some teams travel without lasts and hammers, this often proves a disaster unless the player wants to emulate the natives who play in bare feet.

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POT SHOTS

By "ONLOOKER"

NEW BLOOD

Hakoah's crushing defeat of South Yarra last week showed up the vast difference in the standard of play of these clubs. Although doomed to relegation, South Yarra can reflect on this season as having at least blooded a new centre-half which should bear fruit in the coming years. I refer to young Gordon Cullen, who started off at right-back early in the year but after an injury to regular centre-half Morrie Payne, he moved to the pivot position. Gordon is a big lad with a strong kick and providing he profits by his experience this year we may again see him in First Division football. Followers of soccer may remember his brother, Ken, another player of distinct promise. Owing to pressure of business Ken has had to forego his soccer this year, but it is quite likely that he may be seen in action again next season.

IMPROVED GROUNDS MEAN IMPROVED SOCCER

There must be an air of optimism out Footscray way these days, especially after the defeat of semi-finalists, J.U.S.T. They play the Cup tie style of football which is especially suited to the rough Henry Turner Reserve, but I think they will be hard-pressed to defeat their opponents at Toorak Park next month. It is a pity for the standard of First Division soccer that the enthusiastic and hard-working Footscray supporters cannot improve the surface of their ground.

MORE WISHFUL THINKING

Talking about optimism, Brighton were quite sure they would defeat Juventus last Saturday. However, the "seasiders" provided an inglorious display in the second half to end up well and truly beaten. This side does not seem to be the same since Ralph Walker left to go to Sydney, the juniors of last season, Watson, McCartney and, of course, Roberts, now with the Colts, have acquitted themselves well for first-year players, in fact McCartney has polled very well in the "Argus" award. When Roberts returns to the club and new players are found to bolster a couple of weak links, then we might see Brighton regain the form that carried them into three consecutive Doherty Cup finals.

BETTER TO TAKE A TICKET IN TATTS.

It is said that Australians are a race of gamblers, but surely those in the United Kingdom must take some beating, fancy trying to win money by picking the results of soccer matches literally played in paddocks 12,000 miles away. Anyway, they will be able to see their money go down the proverbial drain for themselves, as I notice the English football season opened last Saturday.

Our Cover

MATHER (Australia, South Australian right-back) pursues BARKER (New Zealand's outside-left) in the First Test Match at the Melbourne Showgrounds. The Kiwi's won the game 2-1.

Learn with Len Young

Soccer Coaching

The twelfth of a series of articles by the V.A.S.F.A. Official Coach.

GAME CONDITIONINGS (continued)

Perhaps the conditioning I am about to mention should rank amongst the most important of all, and it comes under the heading of "Shooting with Power". If you should at any time be in a gathering of "students of the game" just mention the lack of goals scored by nearly every set of forwards. You will have introduced a subject very dear to their hearts, and many theories will come to light.

Amongst them will doubtless emerge the one that the present-day set-up of a defensive stronghold built round a "stay-at-home" centre-half is in some way responsible for the lack of goals. Yet, with the advent of this type of player some years ago, statistics were shown by the Football Association in England after all first-class teams had adopted this style, that making allowances for the rapidly advancing standard of attacking play, goal scoring increased by a very slight degree.

"How many goal-scoring chances do you think a fairly skilful set of forwards has during a match?" If we presume a reasonable chance is one in which a forward is about 20 to 25 yards from his opponent's goal, facing the correct way, and with the ball in front of him, then let's try to work out the number of opportunities each forward has.

The centre-forward, of course, should come first, and let us give him 20, the inside-forwards together could probably number 20 between them, and the wingers perhaps 30, a grand total of 70 chances in all. Now let us analyse what normally happens: (a) About half of the total chances find the players in possession with the ball on the wrong foot, the one he stands on when kicking a ball, or, in plain language, few players can use both feet equally well; (b) good class players can really hit a ball hard over a 20-yard distance using their head, providing the ball reaches them travelling at a reasonable pace; (c) if the player is angled as of course most times a winger is, the goal uprights look very close together, so a pass is made; (d) the defenders packed round about and in the penalty area makes the chance of a shot reaching a target seem exceedingly slender, and I could think of many more reasons but space forbids. It is plain to see, however, that there are far too many excuses available for attacking players, and it is most important that coaches instill into their teams confidence in their individual ability to try shots or headers from positions they would never attempt usually. Instead of allowing them the normal shooting practice where the players tee the ball up nicely into position, and shoot from inside the penalty area, get somebody to throw (the goalkeeper if you like) a ball at different angles to the players "outside" the area, and make them hit it first time with either foot, or the head. Then put a practice match on that is conditioned to "long-range shooting only". This means that any player taking the ball into the penalty area before shooting for goal is penalised. It's amazing what results can be had with a few of these sessions.

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V.A.S.F.A. BULLETIN

FOURTH DIVISION

It was reported incorrectly to me that Victorian Colts defeated Wilhelmina 2-1 on Sunday, August 14. The correct score was 2-1 in favour of Wilhelmina. League tables have now been adjusted and apologies are extended to Referee Brown, whose report was queried.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

All clubs are reminded a Special General Meeting will be held next Monday, August 30, in the Collins Room (Third Floor), Federal Hotel, corner Collins and King Streets, at 7.30 p.m. sharp, to discuss proposed Constitution. Each club is entitled to have two (2) delegates present.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE CUP

Scores in the semi-final games last week were: South Yarra 3, Rosebud 0. Croatia 1, B.W.R. 2. South Yarra and B.W.R. play off in the final on Saturday, August 28.

—S. Beaton, Sec. V.A.S.F.A., 737 Malvern Rd., Toorak, S.E.2

LIGHTS ON LATROBE VALLEY

"ADVERTISER" SHIELD SEMI-FINALS

On Sale United's ground Traralgon Tigers, twice in arrears, battled on to force a draw with R.A.A.F. This is the third successive drawn game between the two teams. The replay was on Saturday, August 21, at Morwell.

The surprise result of the season was at Moe, where Yallourn, full of confidence, having thrashed A.P.M. the previous Saturday, five goals to one, were given a taste of their own medicine. F. McClusky, Latrobe Valley representative, centre-forward and subdued last week, netted four times. Last season's champions seem to have got back to form after a lean time, and their game on Saturday v. present leaders, Morwell, should provide plenty of thrills. Results, Saturday, August 14, Shield semi-finals: A.P.M. 6 goals v. Yallourn 3 goals, at Moe. Tigers 2 goals v. R.A.A.F. 2 goals, at Sale.

LEAGUE TABLES TO DATE

Morwell	13	10	2	1	30	7	22
Moe United	14	8	2	4	43	17	18
Tigers	14	5	6	3	22	25	16
A.P.M.	14	5	2	7	21	34	12
R.A.A.F.	14	3	5	6	20	25	11
Yallourn	13	5	1	7	23	30	11
Sale United	14	2	2	10	20	38	6

—Frank McIver, Hon. Secretary.

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JUNIOR SECTION

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS FINAL

On Wednesday, August 18, the long-awaited clash between Caulfield Tech. and Footscray Tech. took place at Yarra Park in the Technical Schools final. With both teams previously unbeaten and with the terrific goal averages of 54-4 for Footscray and 45-9 for Caulfield, some first-class football was expected.

Footscray, fresh from their Dunkling Shield victory of the previous Saturday, were full of confidence, but soon found that the Caulfield defence was a lot stronger than anything they had previously come up against.

Unfortunately the very blustery conditions put both teams off their game and mis-kicking and poor trapping marred the early part of the match.

Footscray were unlucky with their centre-forward and captain, who injured a thigh muscle halfway through the first half and for the rest of the game was a passenger. This threw their forward-line out of gear and their usual machine-like attacks were missing. It might have been a better move had the captain moved himself to a wing position, but it is easy to be wise after the event.

The game swung from end to end with still no score, although Caulfield were doing a little more attacking than Footscray. Many Caulfield moves came to nothing through the tendency of their centre-forward to hang on to the ball and endeavour to crash through when other men were unmarked.

With only a few minutes to go a long dropping shot from the Caulfield inside-right beat Footscray's goalie and the championship went to Caulfield for the first time.

The game was refereed by V.A.S.F.A. coach, Len Young, who congratulated the linesmen (one from each School) on the good job they did.

This game was a fitting culmination to the best season in Victorian Tech. Schools for many years. Both teams are grand sides and many of their players will be seen one day in big football if they persevere and are given the right encouragement. Caulfield only started soccer midway through the season two years ago as the result of a schoolboy writing a letter to the V.A.S.F.A. asking that Mr. Dixon endeavour to get their School to take up soccer. Soccer was regarded somewhat with amusement at first at Caulfield Tech., but this is no longer the case and at the final, Mr. Veitch (the School Sportsmaster) saw his boys play for the first time and was very impressed with their showing.

Much of Caulfield's success is due to Arthur Reynolds, of Box Hill, who coached these boys for two seasons, and also to Mr. Wolstenholme, of the Tech. School, who is now in charge of them.

Footscray Tech. have played soccer for many years, and have had many successes. Coaching these boys is one of the keenest men in School soccer today, Jim Nuttall, who, at the beginning of the season, stated that nearly all his last year's Cup winning side were gone, and he did not know what he would do for players.

With the Dunkling Shield in their possession and runners-up in the Schools competition, he has every reason to be proud of himself and his fine young team.

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PRESTON JUNIORS

Congratulations, Sunshine United, on winning the Under 15 premiership. As the score indicates (3-2 Sunshine United) it was a close game, each side scoring alternately with the odd goal going to Sunshine in the closing stages. For Preston to put up such a fight against a team which included five State representatives was quite an effort, and no doubt the points went to the best side on the day. Thanks for a good, clean game, boys, and a special vote of thanks to Bill Paton, of Sunshine United, who gave a splendid exhibition of unbiased refereeing.—A. Clark.

AROUND THE CLUBS

FOOTSCRAY CITY

The two points from their victory over J.U.S.T. make Footscray definitely clear of relegation and free to concentrate on bringing the prized Dockerty Cup once again to Footscray. The old Footscray Thistle Club won the c[illegible] five times, a record which stood until 1950, when Brighton equalled it wi[illegible] a victory over Juventus. Juventus, incidentally, are Footscray's opponents today, and on September 11 in the Cup semi-final. Footscray's 11-3 defeat of Maccabi was a quarter-final record high score.

Much of Footscray's Cup success can be attributed to 23-years-old Arthur Robbins, formerly of Manchester City, who arrived here in June. Footscray, at that time, were losing matches although constantly the better team. Arthur felt he could help the players by passing on what he had learnt in first-class English football, and so took over as coach. Bill McIntosh sportingly resigned as captain, a position he had held for three seasons, in favour of the new coach, and Footscray City, for the first time, have reached the Cup semi-final. Thanks, Bill, for the past. Good luck, Arthur, for the future.

See the Game of the Week—

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

BRIGHTON v. FOOTSCRAY CITY

AT

ELSTERNWICK PARK

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ASTOR SOCCER CLUB

Last week's drawn game against Williamstown concluded our League programme and gave us the premiership after our second season in Third Division Reserves. The boys played hard and well. We have the material to give a good account of ourselves if promoted next season. Thanks to Tom Power and Ron West, who shared the role of skipper, a grand job. A vote for "best and fairest" would surely be a unanimous one in favour of Les Wiggins, at left-back. Our thanks to the ladies for those half-time refreshments, also the vocal support. Just one complaint — the shortage of official referees in the lower grades has caused a lot of incidents which we prefer not to see in our code.—J. Johnson, Secretary.

FOOTSCRAY CITY — Under 20

The loss of points early in the season lost Footscray City the premiership. After winning the last 14 games by clear margins (3-0 Sunshine City, 6-1 Hakoah, 8-1 Pascoe Vale, 11-1 Preston), Footscray, in the "match of the [illegible]ar", against Sunshine United, proved themselves the real "champions of [illegible]nior soccer" by defeating the League winner 4-1. Brothers Ian and Wes Smith (right-back and inside-right respectively), inside-left Alan Durkin, and centre-half and captain Tony Brian, will play in the Victorian State team at Adelaide. Mr. Bob Ferguson, Footscray trainer, will travel as manager. Footscray's leading goal-scorer is centre-forward Gordon Gilmore (16 goals), and most promising player is left-back George Whitehouse.

Footscray Technical School deservedly won the Dunkling Shield by defeating Oakleigh Tech. School 4-3 in the grand final. Their fine record this season reads: Played 10, won 10, goals scored — 54 against 4. Congratulations on your fine achievement, boys.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Footscray Technical School,
Ballarat Road,
Footscray.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your query regarding the age and eligibility of the team of boys who represented Footscray Technical School in the recent Dunkling Shield competition, I wish to make the following statement:—

Regarding rumours overheard at the final of the Technical School competition at Yarra Park on August 18, I wish to state that all members of the team representing Footscray Technical School in the Dunkling Shield (one change only to the team that played in the above final) were full-time students of that school and under the age of 18 years, thus fulfilling the [illegible]nditions of the competition as stated to me over the telephone by Mr. [illegible]xon.—James C. Nuttall, Instructor in Charge, Footscray Tech. School.

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INTERSTATE LEAGUE TABLES

NEW SOUTH WALES

SOUTHERN (1st DIVISION)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Corrimal	18	16	0	2	58	17	34
Leichhart-Annan.	18	11	4	3	41	26	25
Granville	18	10	5	3	45	31	23
Auburn	18	8	7	3	34	33	19
Glades-Ryde	18	7	7	4	36	23	18
Bankstown	18	7	9	2	37	49	16
Woonona-Bulli	18	6	10	2	32	45	14
Cent. Marrick.	18	3	8	7	36	32	13
Balgownie	18	4	10	4	29	42	12
North Shore	18	2	11	2	18	68	6

NORTHERN (1st DIVISION)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Cessnock	18	14	2	2	66	29	30
Wallsend	18	9	4	5	63	29	23
Mayfield Utd.	18	10	5	3	59	46	23
Lake Macquarie	18	9	6	3	55	39	21
Adamstown	18	8	6	4	53	41	20
West Wallsend	18	7	8	3	48	37	17
Weston	18	5	10	3	31	80	13
Merewether	18	1	10	4	27	60	12
East Lakes	18	3	10	5	46	65	11
Cardiff	18	3	11	4	27	49	10

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FIRST DIVISION

Juventus	30	17	15	2	0	74	21
Budapest	27	16	12	1	3	49	24
Birkalla	24	16	10	2	4	64	25
Port Thistle	22	17	10	5	2	46	32
Vytis	16	16	7	7	2	54	42
Enfield	13	16	6	9	1	36	49
Port Adelaide	10	16	4	10	2	33	54
Cumberland	8	16	2	10	4	29	59
Beograd	7	16	3	12	1	25	55
Sturt	5	16	1	12	3	28	66

SECOND DIVISION

Lion	28	16	12	0	4	67	14
Polonia	25	16	10	1	5	69	18
Slovakia	24	16	10	2	4	55	18
Kingswood	19	16	8	6	3	60	39
South Adelaide	16	16	6	6	4	42	40
Portsmouth	16	16	6	6	4	34	44
Railway	14	16	4	6	6	38	51
W. Torrens	11	16	4	9	3	42	62
Thebarton	5	16	1	12	3	18	68
Woodville	2	16	0	14	2	18	89

QUEENSLAND

1st DIVISION

Dinmore	18	11	5	2	43	27	24
St. Helens	18	10	5	3	54	46	23
Thistle	18	10	6	2	46	28	22
Easts	18	10	6	2	52	38	22
Blackstone	18	10	6	2	40	40	22
Bundamba	18	9	7	2	51	29	20
Bulimba	18	6	11	1	31	50	13
Oxley	18	4	10	5	19	35	12
Y.M.C.A.	18	5	12	1	44	63	11
Caledonian	18	5	12	1	35	59	11

SECOND DIVISION

Corinthians	18	17	0	1	114	13	35
Merton	18	12	4	2	67	32	26
Toowong	18	10	6	2	53	35	22
White Stars	18	7	6	5	39	37	19
Hellenic	18	8	8	2	39	39	18
Barrdon	18	6	10	2	41	61	14
Latrobe	18	6	10	2	29	54	14
Shafston	18	3	7	8	32	66	14
R.A.A.F.	18	1	12	2	24	53	11
Y.M.C.A.	18	3	13	2	21	69	8

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LEAGUE TABLES

AS AT MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1954

FIRST DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Juventus	16	11	5	0	49	17	27
Hakoah	15	11	1	3	62	29	23
Polonia	15	7	5	3	30	18	19
J.U.S.T.	15	8	2	5	41	33	18
Brighton	15	8	2	5	39	32	18
Footscray City	15	7	0	8	32	41	14
Moreland	15	6	1	8	38	38	13
Prahran	16	4	2	10	22	42	10
Box Hill	16	4	0	12	35	59	8
South Yarra	16	1	2	13	23	65	4

SECOND DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
George Cross	16	13	2	1	51	20	28
Yallourn	16	11	4	1	48	11	26
Sunshine City	16	10	1	5	31	27	21
Park Rangers	16	8	2	6	45	46	18
Maccabi	16	8	1	7	43	41	17
Sth. Melbourne	16	7	2	7	37	36	16
Preston	16	5	2	9	20	27	12
Geelong	16	3	1	9	21	40	10
White Eagles	16	4	0	12	26	46	8
Sunshine United	16	1	2	13	11	45	4

THIRD DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Slavia	17	15	1	1	79	15	31
F.N.D.	17	11	1	2	51	20	29
Hellenic	16	13	1	2	68	31	27
Sandringham City	17	7	4	6	42	32	18
Dandenong	17	7	1	9	37	44	15
Moorabbin City	18	6	2	10	38	53	14
Frankston	18	4	4	10	27	51	12
Williamstown	18	4	2	12	31	52	10
Coburg	18	3	4	11	18	59	10
Fairfield	18	2	4	12	14	49	8

FOURTH DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Wilhelmina	17	15	1	1	85	15	31
Maribyrnong	18	13	3	2	55	18	29
Ukrainia	17	11	2	4	45	22	24
I.C.I.	18	10	2	6	43	29	22
Upper Yarra Dam	17	9	5	4	48	25	21
University	16	6	1	9	20	58	13
Heidelberg	18	5	1	12	23	71	11
Vic. Colts	6	4	0	2	26	9	8
Nunawading	18	2	1	15	9	72	7

Ukrainia v. Vic. Colts, 22/8/54, not included.

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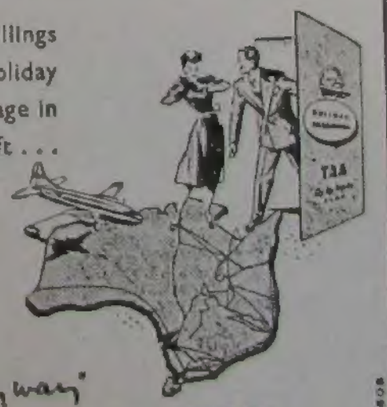

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RESERVE LEAGUE TABLES

AS AT MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1954

FIRST DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Juventus	16	13	0	3	55	17	26
South Yarra	16	12	1	3	36	22	25
Polonia	15	11	1	3	43	14	23
Box Hill	15	8	2	5	35	24	18
Brighton	16	7	4	5	31	29	18
Footscray City	16	6	2	8	43	10	14
Hakoah	15	4	3	8	25	40	11
I.U.S.T.	16	4	2	10	25	50	10
Moreland	14	2	2	10	21	41	6
Prahran	15	1	3	11	26	57	5

SECOND DIVISION

George Cross	16	14	1	1	54	7	29
8th. Melb. United	16	12	3	2	66	12	26
Sunshine City	16	10	2	4	40	13	22
Geelong	16	8	2	6	18	16	18
Park Rangers	16	7	4	5	27	24	18
Yallourn	16	7	3	6	23	23	17
Preston	16	4	3	9	19	40	11
Sunshine United	16	3	5	8	18	48	11
Maccabi	16	3	0	13	8	76	6
White Eagles	16	0	2	14	0	22	2

THIRD DIVISION

Astor	18	15	1	2	70	18	31
Hellenic	18	14	0	4	60	17	28
Williamstown	18	13	2	3	57	24	28
Slavia	18	14	0	4	60	27	28
Dandenong	18	0	0	9	41	93	18
Sandringham City	18	8	1	0	38	39	17

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Coburg	18	4	2	12	10	36	10
Moorabbin City	18	4	2	12	17	93	10
Union Jack	18	4	0	14	23	59	8
Fairfield	18	0	0	18	10	61	0

League completed.

FOURTH DIVISION

St. Albans	18	16	2	0	110	21	34
Bayswater	18	15	1	2	81	19	31
St. Kilda	18	11	1	6	37	26	23
Williamina	18	8	2	8	60	48	18
Werribee	18	0	0	0	37	31	18
Universally	18	8	0	10	23	82	16
Maribyrnong	18	5	0	13	21	33	10
Heidelberg	18	4	1	13	29	65	9
I.C.I.	18	4	1	13	17	18	9
Nunawading	18	4	0	11	12	86	8

League completed.

Provisional League

South Yarra	10	7	2	1	40	17	16
Croatia	10	5	2	3	34	20	12
R.W.R.	10	5	2	3	37	21	12
Box Hill	10	5	0	5	15	34	10
Brighton	10	4	0	6	17	20	8
Ukraine	10	1	0	9	5	35	2

League completed.

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